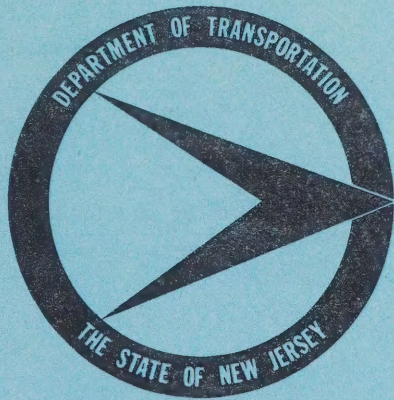


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HIGHLIGHTS of ACTIVITIES

1975



BUSES
RAILROADS
HIGHWAYS
AVIATION

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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ALAN SAGNER
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1035 PARKWAY AVENUE

TRENTON, N. J. 08625

July 19, 1976

Honorable Brendan T. Byrne
Governor of New Jersey

Dear Governor Byrne:

It is my pleasure to submit to you this report on the Department of Transportation's activities for the year 1975.

With voter rejection of the 1975 Transportation Bond Issue, and inflation, the Department critically reviewed its operations to assure the greatest benefits to New Jersey's transportation needs with the reduced funds available.

The principal objectives of the Department were to increase and upgrade public transportation, to complete essential segments of Interstate and other highways, and to fully maintain the existing highway network.

Progressive programs were instituted to meet these objectives, and although the dollar value of construction and maintenance contracts was reduced, the number of highway projects was increased.

The purchase of 160 new rail cars costing \$136.4 million, the railroad station rehabilitation program, and the purchase of new buses reflected the Department's commitment to public transportation.

The Department has been besieged with new problems, increasing transportation needs and tighter fiscal limits. In spite of this, the principal objectives were successfully met by the efficient use of resources available.

Respectfully,

Alan Sagner
Commissioner of Transportation



July 19, 1975

Honorable Brendan T. Byrne
Governor of New Jersey

Dear Governor:

It is my pleasure to submit to you this report of the
Department of Transportation's activities for the year 1975.

With voter rejection of the 1975 Transportation Bond Issue
and reduction of the Department's budget, the Department has
assured the greatest benefit to the State's transportation needs
with the reduced funds available.

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and various public transportation, to complete projects and
improve and maintain existing, and to fully maintain existing
highway network.

Transportive programs were initiated to meet these
objectives, and although the dollar value of construction and
maintenance contracts was reduced, the number of highway projects
was increased.

The purchase of 160 new rail cars, including 100 rail cars,
the railroad rolling stock program, and the purchase of the
bus fleet, are the Department's commitment to public transportation.

The Department has been working with the public
transportation needs and highest priority areas. In spite
of this, the principal objective was successfully met by the
efficient use of resources available.

Respectfully,

Alan Bogert
Commissioner of Transportation

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Highlights of Activities - 1975

January

The State's first bikeway was completed, connecting Cadwalader and Stacy Parks in Trenton. The 2 1/2-mile bikeway, constructed at a cost of \$76,000, was financed with 70 percent Federal and 30 percent State funding.

Federal approval was received for the Environmental Impact Statement on proposed access ramps to carry traffic from the Garden State Parkway to the Penn Central Railroad MetroPark Station in Woodbridge Township.

A preliminary application has been submitted to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) for a capital grant of \$175,472 for a telephone-activated bus service in Camden called Tele-A-Tran. An additional \$43,868 is to come from State funds. The project, covering a 4-square-mile area, is sponsored by the Black Peoples Unity Movement.

Two UMTA capital grants amounting to \$136,484,000 were received for the purchase of 160 electric multiple-unit commuter cars for the Erie Lackawanna Railway, and the purchase of 1,400 new and used buses for lease to bus companies throughout the State.

A public hearing was conducted on a proposal to establish new regulations governing the take-off and landing of balloons, the licensing of balloonists, and the repeal of existing balloon operation rules.

A \$1.3 million passenger station rehabilitation program at 25 stations on the Erie Lackawanna Railway was completed. Financed with 1968 Transportation Bond Issue funds, the project included improvements of platforms, refurbishing of buildings, and modernization of lighting along the Morris and Essex Line and Gladstone Branch.

More than 500 New Jersey firms, which could be seriously hurt if they lose vital rail freight service under the Federal Railroad Reorganization Act, were asked by the Department and the State Chamber of Commerce to participate in a freight transportation survey. The information will enable the Department to respond to the United States Railway Association proposal to consolidate bankrupt railroads in the Northeast Region.

A program to increase productivity of personnel and equipment has been undertaken with the objective of saving up to \$5 million a year. The program will focus on three areas: increased use of Federal aid funds; improved efficiency in the use of manpower and resources; and greater use of technological improvements.

An apparent low bid of \$311,327 was received to construct a scenic overlook off westbound Interstate Route 78 in Somerset County. The overlook, the first on Route 78, will be constructed in the vicinity of Washington Valley Road in

Bridgewater and Bernards Townships.

The Division of Aeronautics began distributing the 1974-75 Directory of Airports in New Jersey.

The Federal Highway Administration approved the Air Quality Report for Interstate Route 280, the last of the environmental requirements to be met. This cleared the way for right-of-way acquisition to complete the last 2.4 miles of the freeway in Hudson County.

Noise and Air Quality studies were completed for proposed Route 517 (Sparta Bypass) in Sussex County. A noise study was completed on Interstate Route 80 in Parsippany, Morris County. The first in-house air quality monitoring project was started on the proposed Route 1-9 Freeway in Jersey City.

February

February marked the start of the second winter season "pothole patrol" program. Motorists were asked to help the program by reporting pothole locations to the Department. With this information, the Department can schedule repairs and dispatch crews more quickly.

The City of Newark was allotted \$22,000 to study the feasibility of a program to encourage groups of city employees to join together and purchase vans for car pooling to work. The objective was to conserve fuel, and reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and the demand for parking facilities in the center of Newark.

Warren County was awarded a \$94,000 grant for painting 196 miles of pavement marking on county roads, the first applicant to receive funds under the Federally sponsored Pavement Marking Demonstration Program to improve highway safety. The cost of this work is 100 percent reimbursable with Federal grants.

Applications were mailed to more than 215 private non-profit community-service organizations throughout the State to determine their eligibility to share in a \$523,000 Federal grant to provide transportation for elderly and handicapped persons. The program will lease vehicles to incorporated organizations to provide transportation services for those for whom public transportation is otherwise unavailable or inappropriate.

More than 1,500 employees at Department headquarters participated in a feasibility study for a car pool/bus commuter program to demonstrate the effectiveness of a computerized program and encourage other government agencies and private industry to follow suit.

A 30-day test period began on an emergency call system installed on 13.3-miles of Interstate Route 80 between Netcong and Denville. The system consists of 57 emergency telephone boxes mounted at half-mile intervals along the road and a telephone switch board connection located at the State Police barracks in Netcong.

A site was selected for a new control tower for Caldwell-Wright Airport during a meeting of representatives of the Department, the Federal Aviation Administration, Essex County, and the major fixed base operator of the airport.

Starting May 1, 305,000 senior citizen bus riders in the State-subsidized reduced fare program will have to use tickets. The new program will give tighter control to the Department over reimbursement to the bus companies. A contract was awarded for the printing of 700,000 reduced fare ticket books, to be distributed by banks, savings and loan companies, and county offices on aging.

March

Work started on the first stage of a \$3.2 million road resurfacing project for Interstate Route 80 extending 8 miles from U.S. Route 206 in Roxbury to Mount Hope-Dover Road in Rockaway, Morris County.

The Department's Productivity Program identified some \$4 million in projected savings and these are reflected in the Department's requested budget to reduce the amount of funds needed in the coming year.

The Department eliminated 199 positions with the loss of jobs for 67 employees. The reduction was caused by lack of work resulting from the failure of the 1974 Transportation Bond Issue. One hundred thirty two employees either chose to retire, were placed in other positions, or were transferred to other agencies of State government.

Madison Township Airport was licensed as a public aviation facility and opened for operations. It is the only airport in New Jersey with water and turf runways. The water runway is located on an adjacent man-made finger lake. There are now 86 State public use aviation facilities in the State.

A combined corridor and design public hearing was held to explain proposed improvements to the U.S. Routes 1 and 130 traffic circle in North Brunswick Township.

Delivery of 70 "Arrow II" railroad passenger cars ordered for the Penn Central commuter service was completed. Purchased with an \$18 million UMTA grant and \$9 million from the 1968 Transportation Bond Issue, the electric cars are for service between Trenton, New York, and South Amboy.

Local State Aid has allocated \$2,857,000 to 54 county and municipal applicants for bikeway construction projects from 1975 bikeway funds. The program has \$2,000,000 in Federal funds (70 percent), and \$857,000 in State or local funds (30 percent) for local bikeway projects.

April

The Department has begun acquiring the land for access ramps to connect the Garden State Parkway and U.S. Route 1 to the Penn Central MetroPark Station in Woodbridge Township. Federal Highway Administration approval of the design permitted the acquisition to begin.

The first progress report on the Department's Productivity Program indicates an estimated \$546,596 has been saved during the first quarter of 1975.

A low bid of \$1,259,859 was submitted by Schiavone Construction Co. of Secaucus for the construction of a new bridge on Paterson Plank Road (Route 20) over Berry's Creek in Carlstadt and East Rutherford.

With the cooperation of three New Jersey dairies, thousands of milk cartons were distributed in every county bearing a message urging senior citizens to take advantage of the Reduced-Fare Bus Program.

A public information center was held in Millville to explain a proposal to acquire 97 acres of scenic lands adjacent to Route 55 Freeway in Cumberland County, with 100 percent Federal funds. The land would be preserved in its natural state, in keeping with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965.

An application was filed with UMTA for funds to purchase 68 vans, 13 station wagons, and 5 buses for 53 private non-profit organizations to provide transportation to elderly and handicapped persons. A total of \$653,750 in Federal-State funds would be used to buy the vehicles which would be leased for a dollar a year. The Department received 75 requests for the vehicles.

Phase I of a sign removal program has identified 20,000 illegal signs along State highways and ordered removal of more than 16,000 of them. The Department has started the groundwork for Phase II, the purchase of signs located within 660 feet of the right of way line in protected areas as established by the Federal Highway Beautification Act.

Regional seminars were conducted for 260 local officials on methods for obtaining approval of local traffic control devices. Representatives of the Claims Division in the Department of Law and Public Safety explained the need to legalize existing traffic control devices. The seminars are part of a program to remove all unauthorized traffic control devices in the State.

May

Advertising was placed for contractors to bid on two projects to improve 102 traffic signals on Routes 27, 35, and 36 in Monmouth and Union Counties. Signals will be linked by a master control using telephone lines. The sophisticated inter-connect system will permit pre-setting timing intervals to meet changing traffic patterns.

The Department awarded a \$330,570 contract to purchase 256 electronic fare boxes for buses, the first to be used in New Jersey. The units will speed up fare collection, record information on ridership and also will increase driver security and safety against holdups since the boxes cannot be opened by drivers.

New regulations governing ballooning operations became effective on the basis of public hearings held in January.

The Federal Highway Administration approved the Department's "Action Plan" which assures that adequate consideration will be given to environmental, economic, and social effects in planning and designing Federal-aid highways.

The Department applied for \$2 million in Federal funds for the development of bikeways in fiscal year 1976. This is the maximum allowed each State under the Federal Highway Act of 1973 which permits use of the money for bikeways on or near Federal-aid highways.

Five thousand bus riders in Morris and Essex Counties were asked about their travel habits and trip patterns in a postal card questionnaire on selected commuter routes of Transport of New Jersey, DeCamp, Lakeland, and Jersey Bus

companies. The survey is part of a study aimed at developing more effective and better coordinated bus service in the State. Under study is the review of bus operations in the Erie Lackawanna Railway's Morris and Essex corridor to achieve a more desirable level of intermodal services. A similar survey was conducted among South Jersey commuters using TNJ's feeder bus system to the PATCO high speed line.

An Engineering Technology program was established to provide advancement opportunities for minorities and women under Affirmative Action Plans of the State and the Department, and to increase the number of Civil Engineering Technologists in the Department. The program, to be conducted in cooperation with Mercer County Community College, will consist of a three-year cooperative work and study engineering course. Selected employees will have the opportunity to earn an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Civil Engineering Technology.

Seven public hearings were conducted throughout the State on Department applications to UMTA for more than \$13 million in grants for bus and commuter rail operating subsidies.

The Summer Youth Opportunity Program is underway and the Department will fill a majority of the 338 seasonal jobs with disadvantaged youths from minority groups and with engineering students. To date, 150 minority youths, 120 engineering students, and 50 disadvantaged persons were approved for employment.

Six 100-foot-high light towers with high intensity sodium vapor lamp clusters were installed to brightly and uniformly illuminate the interchange of Interstate Route 95 and Route 29 at Scudder Falls Bridge, Mercer County.

June

Elizabeth was selected to be the first city to benefit from the Department's new program to "green the cities." The goal is to enhance the appearance and improve the safety of State highways and transportation facilities located in older population centers in the State, as well as in the suburban and rural areas.

Three information sessions and a public meeting were held to discuss proposals for construction of the section of Interstate Route 78 from Plainfield Avenue to Baltusrol Road through the Watchung Reservation in Union County. A public hearing also was held on the final portion of Interstate Route 676 between Atlantic Avenue and Morgan Boulevard in Camden.

The Department has received clearances from Federal and State environmental agencies to proceed with work on Interstate Route 195 in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. The required additional air quality studies were accepted by the Federal Environmental Protection Administration and the State Department of Environmental Protection after accelerated studies were made by Department forces.

Citizens have been asked for their comments on a proposal to widen and upgrade the 13-mile State-owned section of the Garden State Parkway in Middlesex and Union Counties. The project will add one lane in each direction between U.S. Route 1 in Woodbridge Township and Route 82 in Union Township.

A public hearing was held on June 25 to present the Department's proposal to acquire and maintain 97 acres of scenic lands in their natural state along Route 55 Freeway in Millville and Maurice River Township.

July

To offset the processing cost of applications and permits for work within State highway rights-of-way, the Department's new fee schedule went into effect. The fees will partially recover costs of Department forces reviewing design plans and inspecting construction. The new schedule is expected to generate an estimated \$350,000 in revenue the first 12 months.

The Department advertised for bids on four projects this month:

To replace the Alexauken Creek Bridge on Route 29, Lambertville, the first obsolete bridge in the State to be replaced under a new Federally-aided bridge replacement program.

A project in the Department's program to "green the cities" in older urban centers. Planting trees and shrubs and improving bus stops on a mile of U.S. Route 30 in Camden and 1.2 miles of Route 130 in Pennsauken and Haddon Townships will beautify the areas and increase convenience of travelers.

To upgrade traffic signals at 27 locations in 16 counties. Some 375 sub-standard parts of traffic signals will be replaced and 55 multi-phase control units will be installed to improve traffic flow, and bring the signals into conformance with new Federal standards.

The second part of a continuing project to upgrade 11 miles of Route 49 between Millville and Bridgeton, Cumberland County, by widening, resurfacing, and improving drainage in a 4.8-mile section in Millville.

More than 7,000 State employees working in the Trenton Central Business District have been listed in a car pool/bus commuter promotional program by the Department. By using this list, employees may arrange to form car pools to cut their commuting expenses and share the driving.

More than \$1.8 million has been saved in less than six months, the second quarterly report on the Department's Productivity Program noted.

State Aid district offices provided assistance to county and municipal officials in preparing proper reports for flood-damage claims in the 12 "disaster area" counties after the Department advised the officials to keep complete records of road repair work to be eligible for reimbursement from the Federal government.

UMTA has approved a grant to purchase 88 vehicles for use by 53 organizations to provide transportation for elderly and handicapped persons. Two additional vehicles were obtained from bids being lower than anticipated. \$130,750 in State funds from the 1968 Transportation Bond Issue will provide matching funds.

The use of tickets in the Senior Citizen Reduced Fare Bus Program indicates substantial differences between previously estimated and actual ridership. A significant finding is that ridership in Jersey City is much lower than had been estimated.

The Department started right of way acquisition for Interstate Route 195 from County Route 527, Jackson Township, Ocean County, to Larson Road, Howell Township, Monmouth County.

Skid tests were conducted on slurry seal paved sections of Route 55 Freeway where surface conditions during rains have apparently resulted in numerous accidents. Skid resistance was found satisfactory where slurry seal had been applied.

August

The Commissioner presided over the dedication of the renovated Rahway Railroad Station, the latest in a series of improvements to be completed in the Penn Central rail corridor.

Public hearings have been scheduled throughout the State on proposed rail and bus fare increases and service curtailments resulting from a \$9 million shortfall in funds to assist passenger railroads and bus lines.

Specifications for 160 new electric passenger cars to be purchased for the electrified lines of the Erie Lackawanna were approved by UMTA.

The Bureau of Accident Records received a Highway Safety Grant for \$200,000 to expedite data recording and update accident record files by eliminating one step and making direct entries on keypunch cards.

In cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Research Division has started work on modification of paving design to alleviate frost action, by improving subsurface design for better drainage.

A survey by the Department and the Federal Highway Administration found an estimated \$56,000 in damages caused by heavy rains at four areas along State highways: U.S. Route 1 at Shabakunk Creek, Lawrence Township, Mercer County; Route 27 bridge at Harney's Brook, Princeton Township, Mercer County; Route 29 at Penn Central Railroad, Trenton, Mercer County; Route 27 bridge at Ten Mile Run, South Brunswick Township, Middlesex County.

The Interstate Route 78 scenic overlook near Pluckemin was completed and opened to travelers, offering an outstanding view of northern New Jersey from atop Watchung Mountain.

Engineers from the Bureau of Traffic Engineering attended a two-week course in computerized traffic control at the Sperry Systems plant on Long Island. The training is in preparation for the operation of a new computerized traffic control system to be installed at the Ellisburg Circle in Cherry Hill.

The Summer Youth Employment Program hired approximately 48 percent minority students, reflecting the joint recruitment and placement effort with the Division of Personnel Services and the Office of Equal Opportunity.

A revised Federal Highway Administration form will enable the Department to monitor a contractor's compliance with Equal Employment-Opportunity requirements on a regular monthly basis.

Two sections of Interstate Route 280, from the Stickel Bridge in Newark to the New Jersey Turnpike in Kearny, have been approved for right of way acquisition, and the first section, from Fifth Street to the New Jersey Turnpike, is expected to be ready for advertising by December.

The Department participated in the Heart Attack Screening Prevention Program conducted by the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry.

Briefing sessions were conducted on the proposed reduction in force and, as a result of voluntary resignations and partial restoration of funds, the planned layoff of 66 of 71 employees was cancelled.

The Aeronautics Division co-sponsored and participated in a three-day flight instructor refresher course at Teterboro Airport, with 230 flight instructors attending. Public hearings were held on aeronautical license applications for four Fixed Base Operators' licenses at Linden Airport and for one Private Aviation Facility license in Raritan Township.

The Department requested and the Federal Highway Administration concurred with the Department's wider shoulder design for Interstate highways. The Department now can bill FHWA for the additional costs on 25 projects.

September

Twenty-three public hearings were conducted statewide to explain proposed rail and bus fare increases and bus service curtailments made necessary by a \$9 million shortfall in subsidy funds. Although hearing examiners recommended that proposals be carried out, action was delayed until December 1 at the request of the Governor.

The Department advertised for bids for manufacture of 160 new electric passenger cars for electrified lines of Erie Lackawanna Railway.

The final application was filed with UMTA for a capital grant of \$175,472 to assist in financing equipment and facilities for operation of a demand-responsive transportation system to be operated by BPUM Tele-A-Tran Corporation, a private, non-profit organization in Camden.

The Bureau of Maintenance reported that the Department, for the first time, is using as part of regular maintenance a special type of road surfacing material previously used experimentally. The new surface produces improved skid resistance and reduces the possibility of hydroplaning.

During Trenton's water emergency, the Department was successful in keeping the headquarters building and Fernwood Complex operational, and also aided the city by cross connecting the Department's well system to the municipal supply, allowing excess water to be pumped into the municipal system, supplementing its supply.

During this time, forty-five persons in the Bureau of Equipment worked in a round-the-clock operation, installing and maintaining emergency water lines placed along the Princeton Pike.

Recommendations of a study of mixtures of commercial grass seed to be used along New Jersey roadsides have been adopted by the Department. The new mixtures should produce grass requiring less maintenance than those which have been used.

The Office of Information Services coordinated the observance of National Highway and Transportation Week in New Jersey: distributed 1,200 posters provided by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation

Officials, distributed copies of the Official State Map and Guide of New Jersey to each of the Department's open house locations; erected displays in the State House Rotunda and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey George Washington Bridge Bus Station, and arranged for other agencies to participate.

A feasibility study has been made which justified acquisition by Essex County Improvement Authority of Caldwell-Wright Airport as a publicly-owned facility. The acquisition made the Authority eligible to obtain \$5.28 million in Federal funds for the purchase and additional funds for priority safety developments.

October

Formal agreement was reached with Transport of New Jersey for the State to lease 514 used buses, purchased from TNJ, back to TNJ as part of a capital improvement project partly funded by UMTA.

The Division of Aeronautics conducted a disaster airlift drill based on the State and Regional Disaster Airlift (SARDA) Plan. The drill was activated by declaring a simulated emergency covering the northern seven-county tier in New Jersey. Participating were the N.J. Civil Air Patrol, N.J. Society of Flying Pharmacists, and Divisions of State Police, Civil Defense, and Aeronautics with officials from the Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, and Federal Civil Defense Preparedness Agency observing. The SARDA forces consist of some 1,700 New Jersey-based private, corporate and Civil Air Patrol aircraft owners who volunteer their aircraft and services for SARDA.

Ten members of the Bureau of Maintenance attended a program at Rutgers University to receive training and be licensed to use pesticides. They will, in turn, instruct and train field personnel in preparation for their being licensed.

A portion of Route 440 Freeway in Bayonne and Jersey City was opened to traffic. The \$6.2 million project provides .8 mile of four lanes, divided, between Mina Drive and 52nd Street.

The Department released the third quarter productivity report, which reflected a total savings of approximately \$4,736,000 through September 30.

November

Recent Department reorganization has placed the Fiscal Management area of Department operations under the direction of the Director of Administration. In addition, the newly-created Division of Management and Budget brings a totally new thrust to the Department with an overall objective to plan for and assist line management in the successful meeting of its objectives through the Bureaus of Budget Analysis, Staffing and Organizational Analysis, Industrial Engineering, and Management Systems.

The Department investigated a locomotive which can operate on both electrified and non-electrified rail lines without schedule delay or operating restrictions in tunnels. Tests were also conducted on a prototype toilet installed on a railroad passenger car in CNJ service which meets Federal health requirements and without needing a service vehicle for removal of waste.

Under the Department's Local State Aid Programs, eight bikeway projects were advertised for bids in December. The Bureau completed a statewide inventory of traffic signals on all State, county, and municipal roads to verify and update traffic engineering records on authorized installations.

A record number of knockdowns of traffic signals during good weather conditions occurred at 97 locations, according to the Bureau of Electrical Operations. All were replaced within 24 hours.

The Department will acquire property for a park and ride facility (Woodcrest Station) on the Lindenwold High Speed Line, along a portion of Interstate Route 295. All owners and occupants of property affected have been notified, and appraisals and relocation surveys have started.

The Division of Aeronautics co-sponsored with the Federal Aviation Administration, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Bergen Flying Club, and Insurance Company of North America two Pilot Upgrade Training Clinics. A total of 600 persons attended. The Director attended a two-day forum at Princeton University on the future of air transportation focusing on air carrier, air cargo, and the impact of supersonic air carrier operations.

Location approval was received from Federal Highway Administration for the Route 55 Freeway (Gloucester County) location. The project was transferred to Design.

Improvements to the Outdoor Advertising Permit Program were completed, which provides a quick means of locating outdoor advertising signs by route and milepost.

December

One bid was received, from General Electric Co., for construction of 160 electric MU cars scheduled for service on Erie Lackawanna lines. The cars will be capable of operating on any of the electrified railroad lines in the State.

Preapplications were filed with UMTA for a loan or a grant to assist the State in purchasing rail branch lines not included in the ConRail System but which are required for passenger service.

Meetings were held with freight shippers on 19 of the railroad branch lines excluded from ConRail to discuss arrangements for provision of local shares of freight subsidy payments.

The Route 15 Freeway Final Environmental Impact Statement was sent to the Federal Highway Administration with request for location approval.

The environmental assessment for Westwood Park and Ride facility was completed and sent to Department of Environmental Protection; this was the first New Jersey Department of Transportation State-funded project requiring environmental processing under N.J. Executive Order 53.

On December 22, the Governor attended a ceremony opening 5.7 miles of Interstate Route 295 in Lawrence and Hamilton Townships. The new section will permit motorists to bypass heavy traffic in the greater Trenton area. It is directly

linked at U.S. Route 1 to 6.4 miles of Route 295 and 95 which were opened to Scotch Road in October, 1974, and a 2.9-mile portion of Route 95 from Scotch Road to Scudder Falls Bridge which opened in 1961.

A Department Engineer, Donald A. Mauer, received the largest award to date, \$8,450, in the State's Employee Suggestion Award Program. Two suggestions by Mauer have enabled the Department to realize an estimated savings of \$276,000 through reimbursements of Federal funds.

DIVISION OF COMMUTER SERVICES

The Division, during the calendar year, made significant steps in providing convenient, fast, safe, and comfortable public transportation to New Jersey commuters.

Obtaining nearly \$180 million in Federal UMTA Grants, the Department prepared specifications and contracted to purchase 160 new electric rail cars, 779 new buses, rehabilitated the Penn Central Rahway Station, and expanded the Reduced Fare Program to include the handicapped, and to add rail carriers and certain interstate bus routes to the program. In addition, printed tickets were introduced, which provides a method of fiscal accountability, permitting the State to save \$160,000 in payments to the bus companies. Other important activities within the division included the purchase of 520 used buses which are to be air conditioned, have anti-pollution devices installed and then leased back to operators.

DIVISION OF DESIGN

Sixty-four contracts were awarded on projects valued at \$43.1 million, and the unit prepared plans for 94 with an estimated cost of \$41.1 million. It also provided technical expertise in preparing specifications and review of a contract for construction of 160 railway passenger cars.

The Division reviewed highway access applications for 200 shopping centers and office-apartment complexes, performed engineering and design services for other State agencies, reviewed or prepared plans for 25 projects by the Department's maintenance forces, inspected 292 bridges for structural integrity, provided construction design and material inspection for landscaping on 142 projects, and processed 165 utility orders and agreements, 82 of which involved \$3 million in funding.

For Commuter Services Division, the unit inspected 1,041 grade crossings, protective devices at 19 crossings, 3,292 bridges, and programmed under the Highway Safety Act of 1973, 66 railway crossings needing rehabilitation, representing a total construction cost of \$2.3 million.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

The year continued a trend which in 1974, indicated a slowdown in construction activity. The main reasons were the diminishing 1968 Transportation Bond Issue funds, and delays caused by changing Federal requirements in environmental studies.

In 1975 the dollar value of work under contract dropped below \$500 million for the first time since 1969. The cost of completed projects in the year amounted to \$71 million, compared to the years '72 and '73, when more than \$200 million was done each year. The money spent on projects decreased, but the number of projects has not.

More smaller projects are being done, and specifically, the number of safety installations such as center barriers and guide rail replacements has increased substantially.

Three important facilities were opened to traffic during the year: a six-mile section of Interstate Route 295 from U.S. Route 1 south to Kuser Road, Trenton; the companion structure to the Morris Goodkind Bridge over Raritan River, Route 1, New Brunswick; and a 3.3 mile segment of Route 33 Freeway in Freehold.

A new program was started in Maintenance to control deterioration of bridge decks resulting from salt action by using a recent concrete technology development, in which liquid latex replaces most of the water used in mixing concrete. Decks on 24 bridges were scarified, removing the top one-quarter inch of surface, and a two inch layer of latex modified concrete pavement was then applied. It is anticipated this method will provide a pavement resistant to salt action, extend the life of the deck, and obviate the necessity of reconstructing a new deck.

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

The Bureau added 76.4 new lane miles to its maintenance work load. Along with this additional maintenance, an emergency problem developed from abnormal weather which caused a great pothole problem on the northerly State roads, necessitating an all-out effort by maintenance forces (and reinstitution of the "pothole program").

However, the major operation of the year, was the resurfacing program in which 47 projects were completed, and 117,562 tons of bituminous concrete were laid. Forty-three sections of the State's highway network were resurfaced in 14 counties, with 43 percent of the projects being eligible for Federal reimbursement. Reimbursement amounted to \$738,815 most of which will be used to start the 1976 resurfacing program.

During the year, 40,128 tons of ice control materials were spread, 16,933 highway signs were fabricated, and 40,994,000 feet of traffic lines were painted, an increase in productivity in all categories.

Maintenance contract costs for bridge painting, mowing, tree trimming, sweeping, and snow removal amounted to \$1,386,448.

RIGHT OF WAY OPERATIONS

The defeat of three successive Transportation Bond Referendums and new Federal environmental requirements left the Right of Way Division with few new projects under way for the construction "pipeline."

The staff was reduced by attrition and layoffs to compensate for the

reduced work load. Interim alternate assignments related to the Federally-aided Beautification and Sign Control and Removal Program. Over 22,000 signs were identified as illegally encroaching on State property and 19,000 were removed under this Program. The activities now have virtually qualified the State for an estimated \$8 million Federal Sign Control special bonus allotment.

Various Interstate routes were released for right-of-way acquisition, including three sections of Interstate Route 195 in Monmouth and Ocean Counties and two sections of Interstate Route 280 from Newark through Harrison and Kearny to the easterly terminus with the New Jersey Turnpike.

Also, under a new statute permitting the State to acquire for county local governments so as to qualify their projects for Federal-aid construction, the Right of Way Division accomplished numerous Federally-aided local government safety improvement and widening projects.

Total projects programmed for right-of-way acquisition during 1975 approximated \$43 million for Interstate and Primary Systems and \$2.7 million for Federally-aided local government programs.

Work on these projects has been accelerated as an aid to the State's depressed economy. Initial contracts on Interstate Route 280 and Interstate Route 195 were made available and advertised for construction.

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